

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation. Let us help children eat their lunch with pride.

PRAISING CONGRESSMAN KINGSTON

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, an economist once said that it is easy to spend money that you do not earn or for which you do not have to take responsibility. That seems to sum up the way we operate around here lately.

Last week, my friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), took a step to change that. After looking at requests, asking for as high as 30 percent increases from legislative agencies, requested from his subcommittee, he canceled hearings on their requests until they came to their senses. While the other agencies were facing cutbacks, the legislative branch thought it was Christmas morning.

If we are serious about being fiscally responsible, we need to start right here in this branch of government. If we cannot keep ourselves in check, how do we expect other agencies to do so? Fiscal responsibility should start right here. Either we have the courage to cut back or freeze here, or we will not have the courage to cut back or freeze at all.

While we all have a long way to go, the gentleman from Georgia's actions are a step in the right direction. We need to stop robbing from our children to pay for our addiction in spending.

A BUDGET VISION FOR ALL TO SEE

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the House Committee on the Budget will hold its Members Day hearings as the congressional budget-writing process kicks into high gear around here. As usual in election years, politics will play a decisive role in that budget debate.

This is not entirely a bad thing. Congress' annual priority-setting document is a good tool, a test Americans can use to judge the competing fiscal visions of the two parties. Unfortunately, only one party seems to have done its homework for this test.

The Republican majority, led by the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman NUSSLE) of the Committee on the Budget, is working to craft a conference-wide budget that embodies the shared values and priorities of our party.

The Democrat leaders, on the other hand, seem unwilling to go to all that trouble. Nobody seems to know. Rather than take hard positions on hard issues, the Democrat leadership appears ready to turn their backs on those issues and their constituents and leave the American people guessing as to their core values.

On the other hand, the Republican Party's values are clear to everyone who asks. They are the same values that have guided our party and our Nation through difficult times in the past: security, prosperity, and families.

Republicans believe the job the Federal Government is to do is to preserve, defend, and support these three great pillars of American democracy. They will all be there in our budget: resources and policies to fight and win the war on terror and defend our homeland; protect the economy from Democrat tax hikes on parents, married couples and working families, while anchoring discretionary spending; maintain the global competitiveness of the national economy and encourage companies to create jobs here in the United States; and protect and defend American families from a culture of violence and self-indulgence that creeps deeper into our society every day.

Whether people agree with us or not, Republicans will at least have the courage to lay our vision out for everyone to see; and as we move forward in this debate, we can only hope that the Democrats show the budget process and the American people the same respect.

A BETTER MEDICARE FOR SENIORS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this past Friday, I had the opportunity to make presentations about the improvements made to Medicare with medical students at the University of South Carolina Medical School led by Mark Versnick and with seniors in the Low Country, where Darren Katz of the Health Leadership Council joined me. I informed them that last year the Republican-led Congress passed a historic bill that finally provides prescription drug coverage for our seniors through Medicare. This was a central issue of recent campaigns, and Republican lawmakers and President George W. Bush have proven that their promises are trustworthy.

The seniors I met with near Sun City at Hardeeville, South Carolina, were happy to learn that their benefits have not changed. Today's Medicare is better for seniors, meeting their needs while keeping costs sustainable. The new voluntary prescription drug benefit allows seniors to lead healthier lives, while preventing disease and avoiding unnecessary hospital visits that will keep costs down.

I am proud of the work we have done to improve Medicare, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to build on this historic success.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE FLOOR SHOOTING

(Mr. CAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Members of Congress injured in the 1954 shooting in the United States House of Representatives Chamber.

On March 1, 1954, four Puerto Rican nationalists entered the House gallery on the southwest corner of the Chamber. As then-Speaker Joseph W. Martin, Jr., concluded tallying the "aye" votes on a Mexican immigrant labor program, Puerto Rican nationalists stood up and began waving a Puerto Rican flag and firing at the floor. The terrorists eventually shot approximately 30 rounds before being apprehended.

As we face a new day of terrorist activity, it is important to remember and honor those who suffered as a result of this assault on the United States Congress. Representative Alvin M. Bentley, who was most severely injured in the attack, represented communities in Michigan that I represent now, such as his hometown of Owosso. I would like to take this opportunity to honor him, as well as the other injured representatives: George H. Fallon of Maryland, Ben F. Jensen of Iowa, Kenneth A. Roberts of Alabama, and Clifford Davis of Tennessee.

These five men were proud to serve their country and nearly paid for it with their lives. The simple passing of time should not diminish their memory nor the lesson we learn from that attack. Now more than ever, we must always remember that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. I am, therefore, honored today to recognize those who have suffered and continue to fight terrorism on behalf of the United States Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 1, 2004 at 12:20 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the 2004 National Drug Control Strategy.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House.